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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

Belgium
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755.00/7-101
SCM
PMC

FROM : Amembassy BRUSSELS
TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.
REF :

32
DATE July 7, 1961
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SUBJECT: Possible Belgian "Richmann Case"

The Belgian press of July 7 reported a possible attempt by Belgians to rescue from his Spanish hideout the notorious World War II Racist leader Leon Degrelle. was condemned to death in absentia after the war for collaboration with the Germans. The report which came from the French press agency AFP stated that the Spanish police on the basis of a confidential tip-off had arrested two Belgians at the frontier post of La Junquera and transferred them to Barcelona for questioning. AFP also noted that public attention had been attracted by the large number of police and Civil Guards which were around Degrelle's property at Constantina near Seville on July 6. The report concluded by noting the possibility that other Belgians may have been involved but were able to cross the Spanish frontier without raising suspicions.

One Belgian press report commented on the similarity of this case with the kidnapping of Richmann in Argentina. This press report stressed that the AFP story had not been confirmed by any other source.

Comment: It is entirely possible that there was indeed a plot to kidnap the infamous Belgian traitor along the lines of the Richmann case, but it is unlikely that there will be any public statement by the Belgian Government either confirming or denying the report. The presumed attempt may also have been a youthful prank.

For the Ambassador:

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Declassified and Approved for Release
by the Central Intelligence Agency
Date: 2001, 2003

Margaret Joy Tibbatts
First Secretary of Embassy

cc: Amembassy MADRID
Amconsul BARCELONA
Amconsul ANTWERP

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REPORTER

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ACTION ASSIGNED TO	ACTION TAKEN	DIRECTIONS TO RM/R
NAME OF OFFICER	DATE OF ACTION	
A OFFICE SYMBOL		

NWC-002893

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

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